

# California Department of Conservation

## 2004-07 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program



*Watershed Coordinators attending Training  
Workshops in Redding*

Annual Report #1  
October 30, 2005

California Bay-Delta Authority  
Interagency Agreement #4600002373



## Summary of Grant Program

The Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (WCGP) was established by the Legislature in the Budget Act of 2000 to fund watershed coordinator positions throughout the state. The purpose of the program was to improve impaired watersheds throughout California by providing support for watershed improvement efforts at a local level. Under this \$2 million pilot program, the Department of Conservation (DOC) awarded grants to Resource Conservation Districts to hire coordinators to work on 30 impaired watersheds across the state.

This highly successful two-year pilot program demonstrated that watershed coordinators are very effective and extremely valuable. By facilitating collaboration among diverse stakeholders across the watershed, coordinators were able to build coalitions for watershed work with hundreds of partners including government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, landowners, and individuals. In addition to building consensus, the coordinators contributed significantly to the success of many other state programs including the CALFED Watershed Program, CDFA noxious weed programs, CDFFP fire safe programs, and DFG salmon enhancement programs. Using a coordinated, local approach to watershed planning and management resulted in highly successful and sustainable watershed improvements.

Recognizing the value of the program and its contribution to meeting CALFED Watershed Program goals, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program provided \$1 million in 2003, and \$9 million in 2004 to continue the program within the CALFED Solution Area through June 30, 2007. The grants were expanded to include non-profit organizations and local governments.

Currently, the WCGP provides funding for 48 grants and 60 watershed coordinator positions throughout the Bay-Delta System. An infrastructure of highly experienced and established coordinators are currently implementing watershed improvement projects and helping to meet CALFED Program objectives.

The WCGP is among the few state grant programs that require performance measures from grantees, and a quarterly accounting of how the measures are met. Under the program, recipients of these highly competitive grants have worked to bring together environmental groups, agricultural landowners, and local governments to cooperate on projects that benefit water quality, stream restoration, fire safety, and other local watershed issues.

This report covers the period from the start of the current grant program in spring 2004 through March 31, 2005. Information received from the grantees has been reviewed by the DOC staff and is presented in this report. Also included in this report is a table, which summarizes the total amount of additional funding obtained through the efforts of the coordinators since the start of the 2004 grant program.



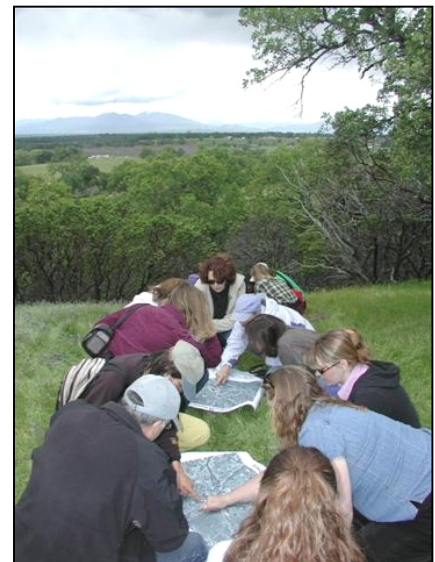
*Watershed coordinators  
receiving field training  
at the Fresno  
workshops.*

As the Additional Funding Table shows, the coordinators have secured over [\\$12 million](#) in additional watershed funding since the start of the 2004 grant program. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators. Coordinators wrote proposals requesting a total of over \$59 million for additional watershed work. [The \\$12 million obtained by the coordinators represents a 20% funding success rate.](#) Most of this funding is designated for watershed projects and does not provide funding for coordinator positions to conduct these projects.

The grantee reports are summarized as individual fact sheets and are listed alphabetically by grantee name. For each grant, the watershed background, benefits to the watershed, and benefits to the CALFED Program are listed. Please refer to the individual fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the main accomplishments of the watershed coordinators for the third quarter period of the current grant program are as follows:

- ◆ Thirty-three (33) restoration projects were in progress or completed. Restoration projects included bank stabilizations, fish ladder installations, barrier removals, etc.
- ◆ Seventeen (17) water-quality monitoring projects are being completed.
- ◆ Ten (10) watershed assessments or plans were completed.
- ◆ Twenty-five (25) workshop/training sessions were conducted on a range of conservation issues including water monitoring, non-native invasive species, and the agricultural waiver program.
- ◆ Four (4) new watershed stakeholder groups were established.
- ◆ Seventy-three (73) outreach events, focusing on educating the public about local watershed issues, were held at public venues such as county fairs and local festivals.
- ◆ Six (6) watershed cleanup events were held, resulting in the removal of hundreds of pounds of trash from local watersheds and involving dozens of community volunteers.
- ◆ Nine (9) watershed tours were conducted.
- ◆ Twenty-two (22) watershed publications were completed.



*Watershed coordinators  
at the training workshop  
in Redding.*

In 2005, DOC organized a series of training workshops for watershed coordinators, titled “Tools and Methods of Watershed Conservation” in partnership with CBDA, CARCD, and NRCS. These workshops covered topics such as watershed stewardship, meeting facilitation, communication techniques, conservation corridor planning, and permit guidance. The workshops were held in Redding and Fresno and included field exercises. The trainings were well attended with 24 coordinators present at the Redding workshops, and 22 coordinators participating at the Fresno workshops. There are plans to conduct another series of workshops in 2006.



Watershed coordinators have built extensive networks of partnerships among community stakeholders and have facilitated collaborative decision-making between diverse private and public entities. They have developed an understanding of issues relevant to their local watersheds and have become an important resource to their communities. Coordinators build coalitions for watershed improvements, obtain funds for those improvements, carry out projects, and educate residents on how to best manage and care for their watersheds.

As part of the management of the grant program, the DOC staff maintains regular contact with the watershed coordinators and conducts field visits to monitor progress on work plans and program objectives. Throughout the state, coordinators have confirmed that the program fulfills a great need. Coordinators are able to reduce duplicative efforts, leverage resources, build collaborative partnerships, and encourage local stakeholder participation. Since the program's inception, local citizen involvement has grown immensely. Coordinators have been successful in energizing their communities and getting more people involved, as evidenced by the most recent quarter where four new watershed groups were established and six clean-up events were conducted. Residents have developed a sense of ownership and look to their coordinators for guidance. Watershed coordinators have provided that leadership.

Several of the coordinators have been involved in the program for over three years. It has taken time to integrate themselves into the community, develop relationships, and establish a reputation for being reliable and getting things done. Over a period of years, the coordinators have developed an understanding of the watershed and how to best address local issues. After many years of persistent effort, momentum has grown and progress has accelerated dramatically.

Coordinators are now expanding their efforts into sub-watersheds and adjacent watersheds. For example, a group of coordinators worked together to form CABY, a regional effort to address issues related to the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Rivers. Long-term coordinators provide stability and enable groups to work together to track and address complex problems over a period of time.



*Watershed coordinator training workshop in Fresno.*

Moreover, many of coordinators have been involved in multiple long-term projects that take years to coordinate and implement. The coordinator for the Upper Cache Creek Watershed spent years working with the Scott's Creek Watershed Council, BLM, the County, Forest Service, NRCS, and local students to implement a gully restoration project, which consists of 16 acres. The site had been a significant contributor of nutrient laden sediment to Clear Lake. The coordinator was involved in researching and selecting the project design, negotiating the contract, working with the contractors on site, conducting education outreach, and monitoring the project's long term viability. This is only one of many projects that the coordinator is involved with at any given time. The project was the culmination of many years of effort and could not have been completed without the coordinator's involvement during the entire project.

The WCGP is the only grant program that funds coordinator positions. They have been extremely successful in securing \$12 million in additional watershed funding in just one year; the majority of this funding is designated for watershed projects, not positions. Without support from the WCGP, most organizations will not be able to sustain or maintain their coordinators. Not only would it impact the organization's ability to function, but also it would severely reduce the number of future projects in the watershed and the amount of funding coming into the area. Coordinators have been very effective in getting diverse stakeholders to cooperate and work together. In many cases, it has taken years to establish this network. The loss of the coordinator would be highly detrimental and could result in a breakdown of cooperation among watershed groups, government entities, and stakeholders. Coordinators have often stated that they have finally established momentum within the watershed and that this progress would end if they were not present. The WCGP fulfills a need for which there is no other funding. Both field visits and progress reports indicate that the program is effective in delivering results. Coordinators who have worked in their watershed for the past 3-5 years are the most successful. These coordinators are highly experienced, well established in their community, understand local dynamics, and have built trust and strong relationships with multiple stakeholders and partners. Losing well-established coordinators would be devastating and would erase much of the gain made over the past 5 years.

In fact, many coordinators have reported that their skills are in such high demand and their efforts so successful that there is a great need for a second coordinator to work on management plans and projects within the watershed. This clearly illustrates the program's effectiveness and success. Demand for coordinators is great and many impaired watersheds would greatly benefit from having a designated coordinator.

Watershed coordinators are crucial for the success of watershed improvements. Prior to the WCGP, relatively few of the state's watersheds had watershed coordinator positions identified and funded. For those few, results had been impressive, and those that were subsequently funded by the WCGP have been extremely successful. As the program has progressed, it has become increasingly apparent that watershed coordinators are vital for facilitating collaboration, building consensus, increasing stakeholder awareness, obtaining project funding, and initiating watershed improvement projects. Coordinators are building the watershed management infrastructure necessary for healthy watersheds statewide.

The WCGP is a critical component of an overall strategy for watershed management in California, and should not be viewed independently. A statewide study of watershed partnerships conducted by the Resources Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board found that a key gap in watershed management was in building the local capacity to develop and implement projects. The WCGP provides the resources for a watershed coordinator so that the community can collaborate and cooperate to successfully plan and implement projects. Without a permanently funded and dedicated watershed coordinator, the community would lose and the watershed would suffer.

**Table 1: Additional Funding Requested/Awarded to Date**

| <b>Grantee Name</b>                                | <b>Cumulative Requested</b> | <b>Cumulative Awarded</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alpine County                                      | \$161,497.00                | \$26,510.00               |
| Arroyo Seco Foundation                             | \$320,000.00                | \$0.00                    |
| Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy                 | \$661,870.00                | \$635,980.00              |
| Butte County RCD                                   | \$517,697.00                | \$186,000.00              |
| Central Modoc RCD                                  | \$298,000.00                | \$57,500.00               |
| Central Sierra RC&D                                | \$1,362,000.00              | \$0.00                    |
| Chowchilla-Red Top RCD                             | \$2,100.00                  | \$2,100.00                |
| Coastal San Luis RCD                               | \$1,090,464.00              | \$664,302.00              |
| Colusa County RCD                                  | \$1,084.00                  | \$58,202.00               |
| Contra Costa Public Works Department               | \$415,837.00                | \$35,689.00               |
| Contra Costa RCD                                   | \$89,475.00                 | \$33,004.00               |
| Dear Creek Watershed Conservancy                   | \$198,170.00                | \$38,170.00               |
| Earth Resource Foundation                          | \$26,500.00                 | \$6,500.00                |
| East Merced RCD                                    | \$2,371,733.00              | \$2,400,000.00            |
| El Dorado Irrigation District                      | \$27,500.00                 | \$27,500.00               |
| Fall River RCD                                     | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                    |
| Friends of Deer Creek                              | \$2,672,100.00              | \$197,610.00              |
| Georgetown Divide RCD                              | \$430,440.00                | \$127,100.00              |
| Glenn County RCD                                   | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                    |
| Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council | \$255,945.00                | \$128,535.00              |
| Mariposa County RCD                                | \$0.00                      | \$476,405.00              |
| Mojave Desert / Mountain RC&D                      | \$1,637,441.10              | \$1,575.00                |
| Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority     | \$23,721,045.00             | \$14,325.00               |
| Napa County RCD                                    | \$4,321,267.00              | \$1,685,526.00            |
| Nevada County RCD                                  | \$29,639.00                 | \$5,350.00                |
| Placer County RCD                                  | \$200,000.00                | \$554,500.00              |
| RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains                  | \$2,236,395.00              | \$59,495.00               |
| Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency               | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                    |
| San Francisquito Creek JPA                         | \$1,330,461.00              | \$397,021.00              |
| San Joaquin County RCD                             | \$556,000.00                | \$1,379,500.00            |
| San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust   | \$333,900.00                | \$3,900.00                |
| Santa Barbara County Water Agency                  | \$86,000.00                 | \$75,000.00               |
| Sierra Valley RCD                                  | \$811,980.00                | \$811,980.00              |
| Sloughhouse RCD                                    | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                    |
| Solano RCD   | \$1,346,411.00              | \$434,450.00              |
| Sonoma Ecology Center                              | \$2,518,953.00              | \$181,793.00              |
| Stockton East Water District                       | \$901,371.00                | \$0.00                    |
| Tehama County RCD                                  | \$187,000.00                | \$30,000.00               |
| Upper Putah Creek Stewardship                      | \$115,800.00                | \$5,000.00                |

| <b>Grantee Name</b>                   | <b>Cumulative Requested</b> | <b>Cumulative Awarded</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Upper Sacramento River Exchange       | \$780,000.00                | \$49,381.00               |
| Urban Watershed Project               | \$0.00                      | \$0.00                    |
| West Lake RCD                         | \$154,843.00                | \$156,125.00              |
| Western Shasta RCD (Sac-Upper Clear)  | \$1,801,531.00              | \$0.00                    |
| Western Shasta RCD (Upper Cow-Battle) | \$1,495,524.00              | \$29,368.00               |
| Westside RCD                          | \$175,000.00                | \$58,500.00               |
| Yolo County RCD (Lower Cache)         | \$980,250.00                | \$36,000.00               |
| Yolo County RCD (Lower Sac)           | \$1,438,093.00              | \$1,024,008.00            |
| Yuba County RCD                       | \$1,414,143.00              | \$5,000.00                |
| <b>Totals</b>                         | <b>\$59,475,459.10</b>      | <b>\$12,098,804.00</b>    |

**Table 2: Quarterly Accomplishments**

| <b>Categories</b>   | <b>Total</b> | <b>Watershed / Location</b>  |
|---|--------------|--|
| Public Education / Outreach Events Conducted                        | 73           |  |
| Watershed Cleanup Events Conducted                                  | 6            | Upper Cache Creek Watershed tributaries, Upper Merced River, San Joaquin River   |
| Workshop / Training Events Conducted                                | 25           |  |
| Watershed Assessments / Plans Worked On or Completed                | 10           | Cosumnes/American/Bear/Yuba River upper watersheds, Fall River, Upper Kern Basin, Carpinteria Creek, Sierra Valley Watershed, Bear Creek, Selby Creek, Carneros Creek, Cosumnes River  |
| Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Programs Created or Data Collected | 17           | Big Chico Creek; Mokelumne River; Marsh Creek; Fall River, Traverse Creek, Hangtown Creek, Kern River, Wolf Creek (South Fork), Upper Putah Creek Watershed, Redwood Creek, Tennessee Hollow Watershed, Cow Creek Watershed, Upper Merced River  |
| K-12 Education Curriculum Developed                                 | 9            | Countywide Envirothon Program  |
| Watershed Websites Created / Updated                                | 14           |  |
| Restoration Projects Planned or Conducted                           | 33           | Pennington Creek, Dairy Creek, Pit River, Battle Creek, Santa Ana Watershed, Fall River, Squirrel Creek (tributary to Deer Creek), Little Deer Creek, Finnon Lake, Dry Creek ( Beale AFB), Mission Creek, Carmen Creek, Little Chance Creek, Upper Clear Creek, Sulphur Creek, Alhambra Creek, Kirker Creek, Solstice Creek, Gill Creek, Murphy Creek, San Joaquin River, Pleasants Creek, Sonoma Creek, Little Lamb Valley Slough |
| Watershed Materials (brochures, maps, newsletters, etc.) Published  | 22           |  |
| Watershed Tours Conducted   | 9            | Clear Creek Watersheds (Upper and Lower), Ballona Creek  |
| Conservation Plans Developed  | 2            |  |
| Invasive Weed Removal Projects                                      | 8            | Strentzel Meadow   |
| New Stakeholder Groups Established                                  | 4            | Stewardship Through Education (STE) Group - Upper Mokelumne Watershed; Upper Fresno River; Nice Watershed Group  |
| Technical Reports / Databases Created                               | 5            |  |
| Regional Coordination Teams / Tech Review Committees Created        | 7            |  |
| Fuel Break Projects Worked On or Completed                          | 1            |  |
| Technical Support Provided to Landowners or Local Agencies          | 31           |  |
| Water Irrigation Research or Data Collection Projects Worked On     | 1            |  |



## Alpine County

Upper Mokelumne / Upper Stanislaus /  
South Fork American / Upper Carson /  
West Walker Watersheds



**Amount Funded:** \$138,473

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$26,510

### **Background**

These watersheds are located in Alpine County, the least populated county in the state, and provide water to regions throughout California. Today, 96% of the land is publicly owned, heavily forested, and highly utilized by outdoor recreationists. Resource management is challenged by excessive fuel loads and erosion that have resulted from over 150 years of extensive mining, grazing, timber harvesting, and road building. Mining operations were common at one time and more than 300 abandoned mines are located throughout Alpine County. Timber operations, rural development, and grazing practices have contributed to sedimentation and erosion. With an increase in the population and consequential recreational impacts, animal habitats and water quality continue to be threatened. It is imperative that this pristine environment is restored and protected for future generations.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Recruited nine (9) more citizen water quality monitors and established three (3) additional monitoring sites. There are now more than 15 volunteers.
- ◆ Established new partnerships in the Stanislaus, Mokelumne, and American River Watersheds to cooperate and collaborate on monitoring and restoration activities.
- ◆ Partnered with local school to implement a project that will map watersheds and establish a water quality-monitoring program that will provide information to the community.
- ◆ Obtained \$13,000 for three stream bank stabilization projects within the Upper Carson River Watershed.
- ◆ Assisted in organizing an educational event that will teach participants how to decrease sediments flowing into Bear Creek and Bear Lake. Stakeholders will learn methods that they can implement themselves.
- ◆ Coordinated planning efforts to conduct a revegetation project within Hope Valley to decrease bank erosion, encourage sediment and nutrient trapping in meadow, and increase infiltration.
- ◆ Worked with stakeholder to get the proper permits to conduct small-scale bioengineering project to reduce sediment to the East Fork of the Carson River.
- ◆ Conducted training for 15 volunteers on photo, habitat and water quality monitoring techniques.



*Alpine Volunteer Water Quality Monitors  
learn how to identify local riparian  
plant species.*

## **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Ecosystem Restoration** – Hosted the Fourth Markleeville Creek Day. Volunteers assisted in restoring/revegetating streambanks along the East Fork of the Carson River. Partnered with the local school to conduct field day where students learned how to conduct monitoring and to remove noxious weeds. The students also produced a conceptual map that will be used to identify priority project sites. Established a GIS database of photo monitoring points to monitor an increase or decrease in the quality of habitat throughout the watershed. Working with the Technical Advisory Committee, which consists of various stakeholders, to restore ½ mile of floodplain within the Upper Carson Watershed.

**Watershed Management** – Actively working with partners on the Alpine Watershed Group to address resource concerns within the community. Encouraging communication between stakeholders, which has been tremendously facilitated by and within the Alpine Watershed Group. Also collaborating with adjacent watersheds to ensure a regional approach to important issues. Actively participating in the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Group to prioritize regional efforts. Shared information with other groups to avoid duplication of efforts. Collecting data that will be used to develop a series of assessment reports for watersheds throughout the area. Assist stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing projects. Developed a website that provides information to the local community on resource issues and watershed topics.



*Students from Woodfords H.S. determine the coordinates of the Alpine Volunteer Water Quality Monitors sites.*

## Arroyo Seco Foundation Los Angeles Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$214,360

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:**

### **Background**

The Arroyo Seco watershed is located within the larger Los Angeles Watershed. It connects the San Gabriel Mountains with downtown Los Angeles. Over the years, water consumption has increased dramatically, creating tremendous stress on the watershed. In addition, creeks and rivers throughout the watershed are contaminated because of algae, fecal coliform, trash, and commercial activities. This has resulted in the upper portion of the watershed being designated a Superfund site and caused the closure of nine of Pasadena's wells and the lower portion of the stream classified as an impaired water body under the Clean Water Act. As the population increases, so will the need to address these critical issues.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Conducted eleven presentations to diverse audiences consisting of more than 380 people. Stakeholders were provided information on the Arroyo Seco Watershed and the Bay Delta System emphasizing the importance of water conservation and quality.
- ◆ Completed an analysis of water consumption in watershed communities by utilizing "A Water Budget for the Arroyo Seco."
- ◆ Met with four local water agencies to develop water conservation and water quality education campaign. Efforts focused on high consumption neighborhoods.
- ◆ Held a public forum on the CALFED program at the Pasadena Museum of History. Thirty people attended this event which featured a prominent speaker from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the CALFED Bay Delta Advisory Council.
- ◆ Participated in planning, coordinating, and delivery of the "Healthy Watersheds" workshop held in Altadena. Presented information on source water and water conservation. Other topics included watershed awareness, native plant landscaping and stormwater BMPs. Over 60 residents attended the event.
- ◆ Partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to conduct water quality sampling, which will help guide future water quality testing, development of BMPs, public outreach, and identification of non-point source pollution.



*Participants at the Healthy Water Workshop.*

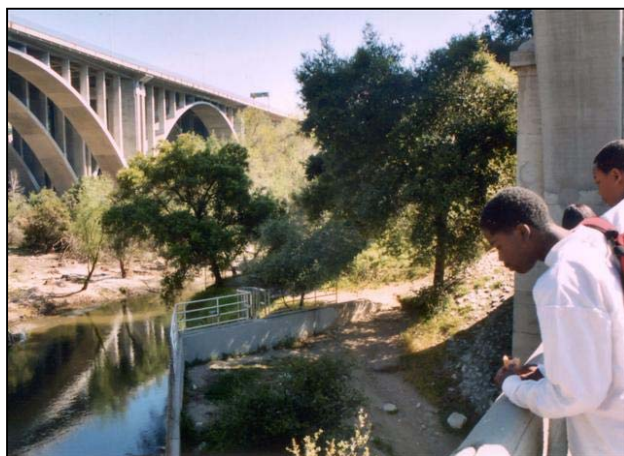


- ◆ Provides administrative and logistical support to the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations (CASO). Over forty organizations have been represented at the meetings, providing information and collaborating on important watershed issues.
- ◆ Maintains and updates the Arroyo Seco Foundation's website, which provides local residents with important information. More than 90 local watershed events were publicized on the site.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – Worked with partners and developed the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations (CASO), a forum to allow groups to discuss watershed related issues. More than 40 organizations have participated in four meetings. Members are cooperating on many important issues throughout the watershed. Set up a Water History Exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History. Visitors are provided information on water conservation, hydrology, watershed management, contamination, and the Raymond Basin. Conducted “*Healthy Watersheds*” program emphasizing Altadena source water issues, water quality and water conservation. Assisted in developing the Altadena workshop on water issues in the foothills. Over the past year, held more than a dozen outreach events and presentations that provided local residents with information on water conservation, water quality, and ecological restoration. Conducted a tour for local students that focused on the importance of water in the community. The watershed coordinator dressed up in historical garb and provided students with a unique historical perspective. The students learned how water had an impact in shaping their environment and how it is still relevant today.

**Drinking Water Quality** – Assisted the LA County Department of Public Works to complete a water quality baseline study. Reviewed the water quality data and coordinated with North East Trees (NET) on developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) and storm water projects. This information will be used to guide future water quality testing, implement a citizen-monitoring program, and develop local outreach programs. Using data presented in “*A Water Budget for Arroyo Seco Watershed*” communities with patterns of high water consumption were identified. Contacted the Foothill Municipal Water District to set up meetings with several water agencies in these areas to discuss water conservation and water quality education campaigns. Wrote a draft partnership agreement to address conservation issues and to implement an education program.



*Students from a local middle school take a field trip to the Arroyo Seco to learn more about the history of water development within the area.*

**Water Use Efficiency** – Worked with partners to collect information that will be used to implement water conservation programs throughout the region. Participated in the “*Healthy Watersheds*” workshop where homeowners were provided information on many topics including how watersheds function, reducing runoff, creating a water-wise garden, and how to conserve water in their home. Co-sponsored and developed content for the Water History Exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History. More than 1,500 people attended the exhibition. Partnered with Altadena Foothills Conservancy on developing a grant for water efficient pocket park.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – Advanced environmental stewardship programs by working with North East Trees to identify and develop habitat projects in the Arroyo Seco. Provided support and publicity on Pasadena’s Arroyo Seco stream restoration projects. Co-sponsored the “*How Pasadena Fits into the California Water Picture.*” Emphasized water conservation and ecological restoration. Submitted a grant with City of Pasadena for restoration of Arroyo Seco tributary creek

## **Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy Upper Cow-Battle Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$87,918

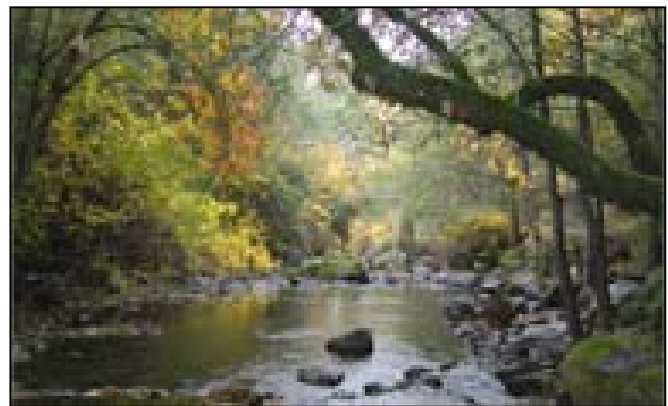
**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$635,980

### **Background**

Throughout the watershed, streams provide habitat for a variety of fish including steelhead and Chinook salmon. These species and others are facing tremendous pressures from increased sedimentation and a reduction in habitat. In the event of a fire, excessive fuel loads would not only destroy wildlife habitats but would also affect livestock grazing, farming operations, and local homeowners. The diversity of the watershed requires a coordinated, collaborative effort to ensure that issues are addressed on a comprehensive basis.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Conducted outreach activities at the Manton Apple Festival and the Return of the Salmon Festival. A display booth was set up and information was distributed to attendees. Both events provided the WC an opportunity to interact with local residents and continue outreach in the community.
- ◆ Participated in Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group monthly meetings which focus on identifying critical watershed issues and prioritizing them based on community needs.
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recognized BCWC during an event for its contributions to local conservation projects. The WC was instrumental in the planning and implementing many of these projects.
- ◆ Continued updating the BCWC website. This website includes more than 65 documents and reports, hundreds of watershed related articles, links to other governmental and non profit groups, and updates on upcoming events and activities.



*North Fork Battle Creek*

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – Acts as liaison between private organizations, non-profit groups, and governmental organizations. Worked with Tehama County Fire Safe Council to organize workshops and educate the community. A major goal is to develop a fire plan that can be integrated with the steelhead restoration project. Provided input to the Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee on the Hazen Road Shaded Fuel Break, which provides protection from fires to local residents. Continued outreach efforts by attending meetings and ensuring that the BCWC website was up-to-date and informative.



**Ecosystem Restoration** – Worked with partners to continue efforts toward implementing the Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. Acted as liaison between governmental organizations and private citizens to ensure access to private property to conduct necessary surveys.

**Science** – Cosponsored the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program Steelhead Supplementation Workshop in June 2004.

## **Butte County RCD**

### **Mill-Big Chico / Upper Butte / Lower Butte Watersheds**



**Amount Funded:** \$218,338

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$186,000

### **Background**

The upper portions of the watersheds are primarily forested lands highly susceptible to fires. Throughout the region, communities are growing rapidly exerting tremendous pressure on the environment. Both water quality and wildlife habitat is being severely degraded. There is tremendous concern about the Butte Basin Aquifer, which may not be recharging as rapidly as in the past. Water quality, invasive weeds, range management, and excessive fuel loads are only some of the issues that need to be addressed. Recognizing that significant challenges face the community, several organizations came together to form a partnership to address these critical issues.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Mailed 496 brochures on dirt road rehabilitation to upper watershed landowners in Big Chico Creek Watershed. Conducted forums where information on rehabilitation techniques were presented. More than 135 stakeholders attended.
- ◆ Developed a draft oak woodlands conservation plan for 271,000 acres in Butte County.
- ◆ Held a grant-writing workshop that was attended by 53 people. Feedback surveys indicated that 90% of the respondents felt the workshop was either good or excellent.
- ◆ Worked with partners on an event to clean-up Chico's urban streams. Volunteers removed 14,000 lbs. of trash and recyclables from urban streams.
- ◆ Conducted watershed tours of both Big Chico Creek Watershed and Little Chico Watershed. Almost 30 people participated, including agency personnel, residents, and other partners.
- ◆ Developed four Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between various partners, establishing the basis for developing joint proposals and projects.
- ◆ Planned and conducted five watershed tours of the Butte Creek Watershed. Highlighted flood management and mitigation, fuels and fire prevention, stewardship, salmon, and erosion control.
- ◆ Participated in creating the Watershed Partnership. It is a cooperative effort involving five local watershed organization, which meets monthly to discuss issues, potential projects and ways to strengthen regional cooperation.



*Bio Assessment Training for volunteers to monitor Big Chico Creek.*

- ◆ Continued working with volunteers and partners on a water quality monitoring program. Sites included Clear Creek, Dry Creek, Gold Run Creek, and the Cherokee Canal. Collected samples and recorded field measurements for nitrates, ammonia, temperature, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, and total dissolved solids.
- ◆ Submitted a grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Alliance for funds to present and facilitate a series of Bio Assessment and Macro Invertebrate identification trainings in water quality.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – During the first year, the Watershed Partnership was developed. Watershed Groups came together and agreed to meet monthly to address regional issues and problems. Partnership members work collaboratively on projects and assist one another in seeking grant opportunities. MOUs were signed to solidify these relationships. Numerous outreach activities were held. The watershed coordinators planned and hosted several tours. Agency personnel, stakeholders, and local residents attended. Tours were conducted highlighting issues in the Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, and the Butte Creek watersheds. Provided information on flood management, fire prevention, stewardship and erosion control. Information presentations were given to two local, non-watershed groups on fisheries, ecology and historic mining activity on Butte Creek. It provided a perfect opportunity to reach out beyond the traditional partners.



*Public Outreach for the Richvale Agricultural Day.*

A woodlands conservation plan is being written that so that local landowners can qualify for conservation easement funds to protect oak woodlands in Butte County. The plan is intended to protect almost 271,000 acres. The Partnership also worked together to conduct a grant writing workshop. More than 50 people attended. The workshop provided an ideal forum to reach out to the community and meet new people.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – Participated in an urban creek clean up. Volunteers removed more than 14,000 lbs. of trash and debris. The event was extremely successful.

**Drinking Water Quality** – Volunteers are conducting monitoring activities on numerous creeks throughout the region. Watershed coordinators are coordinating events and providing training.